

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way in these municipalities:

Acton	East Longmeadow	Lunenburg	Saugus
Adams	Easthampton	Lynn	Southampton
Agawam	Essex	Lynnfield	Southborough
Andover	Everett	Malden	Southbridge
Arlington	Fitchburg	Marlborough	Southwick
Ashland	Framingham	Maynard	Spencer
Auburn	Gloucester	Medford	Springfield
Hansom AF Base	Grafton	Melrose	Stockbridge
Bedford	Granville	Mendon	Sturbridge
Bellingham	Hamilton	Methuen	Sudbury
Billerica	Hampden	Millbury	Sutton
Blackstone	Haverhill	Monson	Tewksbury
Bolton	Holland	North Adams	Tolland
Brimfield	Holyoke	North Reading	Upton
Brookfield	Hopedale	Northampton	Uxbridge
Burlington	Hopkinton	Northbridge	Wales
Carlisle	Hudson	Otis	Wayland
Charlton	Lancaster	Oxford	Wenham
Chelmsford	Lanesborough	Palmer	Westfield
Cheshire	Lawrence	Peabody	Westford
Clinton	Lee	Pittsfield	Weston
Concord	Leominster	Reading	Wilbraham
Danvers	Lexington	Revere	Wilmington
Devens	Lincoln	Richmond	Winchester
Douglas	Longmeadow	Salem	Woburn
Dracut	Lowell	Sandisfield	Worcester

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct regional hearings to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, March 29, 2016: Waltham Field Station, 240 Beaver Street, Waltham, Massachusetts in the Conference Room from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Wednesday, March 30, 2016,MDAR Office, 101 University Drive, Amherst, Suite C4, Conference Room Massachusetts from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the Row Management Regulations provide: “At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request.” Such request should be made to:

Mr. Stephen Morawski
Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company
8 Anngina Drive
Enfield, CT 06082
Tel: (860) 763-6012

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Rights-of-Way Program website www.mass.gov/agr. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public libraries:

Wilmington Memorial Library, 175 Middlesex Ave, Wilmington
Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer
Stockbridge Library, Main St., Stockbridge

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company VMP until the close of business: Friday, April 22, 2016.

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114